



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

HANFORD MISSION

HMiS

INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

MISSION: EVOLUTION

We created a platform for success that facilitates the sharing of ideas and encourages teamwork, evolving how we collaborate.



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



We have all heard the saying “times are changing” at least once in our life. It could have been a relative or teacher, maybe even a coworker at some point. The fact is, it’s an accurate statement that has stood the test of time for a reason – times are always changing. How we adapt to and evolve with change is also where we learn and grow.

HMIS is proud to provide an atmosphere that enables all employees to work together. By interacting in a variety of ways throughout the day and in various roles, we have created a platform for success that facilitates the sharing of ideas and encourages teamwork, evolving how we collaborate.

Whether it’s meeting over Teams, eliminating excess paper use with tablets or updating systems to new technology, our organizations are always looking to advance and innovate. Utilizing the partnerships and support that come from working together, each of us can make a distinct contribution to the overall success of our team. Understanding our mission and valuing our teammates has shown how HMIS truly embraces the One Hanford approach.

Thank you for your enthusiasm when it comes to progress. Your willingness to learn, collaborate and evolve is part of what sets us apart.

Bob

Guest Message – Juli Joyner

Did you know all Hanford Site computer users (yes, even you!) are the first line of defense against cybersecurity incidents? Maintaining good cyber hygiene on Hanford computing resources and reporting phishing emails that land in your inbox are just two of the ways you can help support the important mission of cybersecurity at the Hanford Site.

Ensuring the security of our computing environments is critical to the efforts of HMIS and our One Hanford team to accomplish our cleanup mission. The HMIS Cybersecurity team provides guidance and support for the implementation of DOE cybersecurity requirements and leads the program that meets our contractual obligations.

We are working to turn “No Cyber” into “Know Cyber” and, as part of that effort, our team is working diligently to lead the evolution of the cybersecurity culture at Hanford. But we can’t do it alone. Just like safety, security is everyone’s responsibility, and that kind of evolution of culture and mindset is needed for the security of our mission and the systems that support its achievement!

Remember, “UR” at the heart of security, and we need your help to ensure our Hanford Site computer systems remain safe and secure!



RECOGNITION



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MaryAnne Wuennecke Communications Specialist, One Hanford Communications

You can take the gal out of United Way, but you can't take United Way out of the gal! Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on MaryAnne Wuennecke this month, a former employee of UWBFC who remains a volunteer for the organization.

During MaryAnne's tenure with UWBFC, she helped launch the Festival of Trees, which has grown into a successful annual fundraiser for the organization. She remains on the event committee, assisting with planning, procurement and even served as co-emcee during the most recent dinner and auction.

"Having been part of this event from the beginning, I wanted to make sure it continued to be successful," MaryAnne said. "It was harder than I expected it would be to let go of being in charge! But they have a great team in place and 2022 was another amazing event. Having been on the inside, I've seen the good United Way does in the community and I support their efforts more than ever."

That "good" includes efforts to combat hunger and homelessness in our local region. Thanks so much, MaryAnne, for lending your time and talent to this worthy cause!



MaryAnne Wuennecke (left) was the co-emcee for the most recent United Way Festival of Trees, an event chaired by Bechtel's Staci West (right) since its inception.

RECOGNITION

200 West Water Plant Team Honored Once More

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our Water & Sewer Utilities team received a third Silver Certificate from the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water, now honoring seven-straight years of top performance. The award is tied to removing the tiniest contaminants, or turbidity, from the water at the 283 West Water Treatment Plant. Removing turbidity increases health protection.

Every month, the W&SU team submits a report showing compliance with state regulations. But to receive this honor, a plant must demonstrate excellence beyond compliance, going above and beyond the baseline.

The state said, "By optimizing water quality produced by existing facilities, utilities cost-effectively provide a larger margin of safety and build greater resiliency to handle natural disasters and other unforeseen events. Congratulations to the treatment plant operators, utility managers and decision makers for making this happen!"



Members of the 283 West Water Treatment Plant operate the facility 24/7.





DOE leadership visited the Hanford Workforce Engagement Center this month. Clockwise from left, Brian Vance (DOE), Heather Goldie (HMIS), Brian Stickney (DOE), Josh Artzer (WRPS), Jason Sprowl (Iron Mountain) and Calin Tebay (TradeWind). (Not pictured: Haylee Cope, Edgewater)

DOE Visits HWEC

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

DOE leadership visited the Hanford Workforce Engagement Center this month as part of a broader effort to routinely visit various teams and projects across the Hanford Site. DOE Office of River Protection and Richland Operations Office Manager Brian Vance talked about current Site activities as well as his vision for the future. The visit provided HWEC staff with the opportunity to share their successes over the previous year and plans for the current fiscal year.

Managed by HMIS, HWEC includes five people dedicated to supporting current and former Hanford workers, or their families, in navigating the claims process for occupational illness or injury.

Since opening in 2018, the team has had nearly 15,000 interactions with people through appointments, walk-ins, calls, emails and outreach activities.

ONE HANFORD

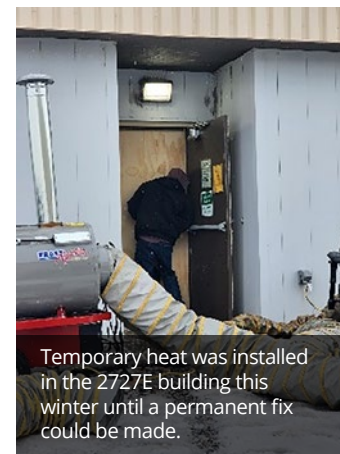
Heat Saves the Day

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

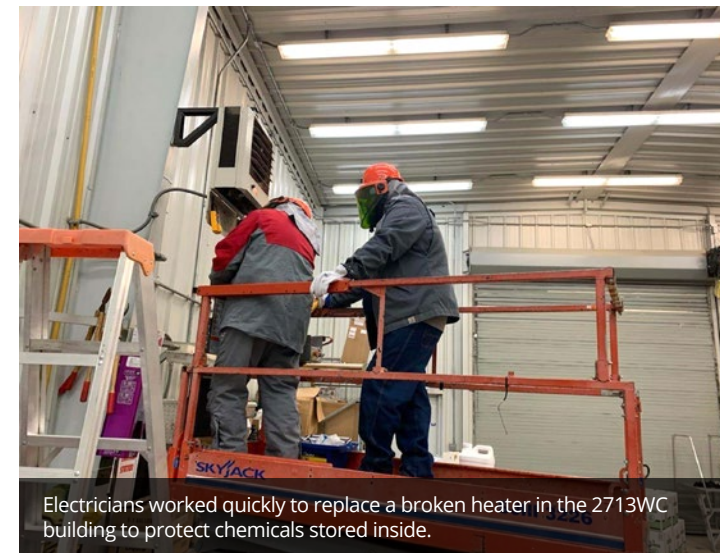
Not all heroes wear capes! Failed heaters required superhero efforts to protect resources and assets during winter weather. Our electricians rushed to fix a broken heating unit at 2713WC, the warehouse that holds chemicals used by our Biological Controls team. Time was of the essence because those chemicals are valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars and must be temperature-controlled, and it was nearly freezing inside while it was below freezing outside – all a potential recipe for disaster!

Electricians determined the heater couldn't be fixed and must be replaced. Our teamsters brought in a lift to assist with the job, allowing electricians to complete the work safely, restoring heat to the building and protecting the government's investment.

Temporary heat was also added to the 2727E building when an HVAC unit failed and resulted in a broken fire suppression line. Our Carpentry, Refrigeration Equipment Services and Sheet Metal organizations worked with teamsters to get equipment delivered and installed to quickly restore heat to the building.



Temporary heat was installed in the 2727E building this winter until a permanent fix could be made.



Electricians worked quickly to replace a broken heater in the 2713WC building to protect chemicals stored inside.



ONE HANFORD

Hanford History Continually Preserved

Contributor: Curation Services team

HMIS manages DOE's Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Hanford Collection and provides curation and pickup services for the Hanford Site. The Curation Services program is supported by Washington State University Tri-Cities and the Hanford History Project, which conducts offsite evaluation and curation of the collection. The work is part of DOE's Manhattan Project National Historical Park Program.

A new 8,000-square-foot repository to house the collection is currently under construction by the Port of Benton. In addition to providing greater ease of public access to DOE's Hanford Collection, the new facility will offer expanded work and research space.

The Hanford Collection was established as historic preservation and public access mitigation under the National Historic Preservation Act. The collection includes



Members of HMIS' Metal Shop Operations, Warehousing & Stores, Motor Carrier Services, and Curation Services joined WSU-TC and the Port of Benton in a tour of the new building that will house the Hanford History Collection.

2,078 historic artifacts and 150 linear feet of archival materials from the Hanford Site and dates from 1943 to 1990.

During FY22, HMIS, with the assistance of the Hanford History Project, received 21 requests to evaluate potentially historic artifacts and moved 43 artifacts cleared for public release from the Plutonium Finishing Plant to the Hanford Collection.

Requests related to potentially historic objects have increased since 2020-2021 as employees transitioned back from teleworking. Of the 21 evaluation requests received, four were determined to be not

eligible for the collection or not releasable to the public, six are in the process of evaluation and/or transfer, and the remaining were transferred to the collection.

Additionally, our Curation Services team added 101 digitized historic Hanford photographs to an online research platform, digitized an additional 240 Hanford Collection photographs, and moved DOE's Manhattan Project and Cold War Era historic collection to an interim staging facility managed by WSU-TC.

The new repository is expected to be finished this summer.

ONE HANFORD

WRPS Working with HMIS to Preserve Pieces of Hanford Site History

Guest Contributor: Derek Miceli, WRPS

DOE's programmatic agreement and plan to preserve and share historic items, structures and information now includes a set of crane operator controls from the 242-S Evaporator building on the Hanford Site. The facility was constructed in the early 1970s. Much like the building staffed by WRPS today, it was vital to Hanford waste management.

The crane pendant was documented with photos in December, wrapping up a process that began when the item was identified and tagged for curation during a 2013 walkthrough.

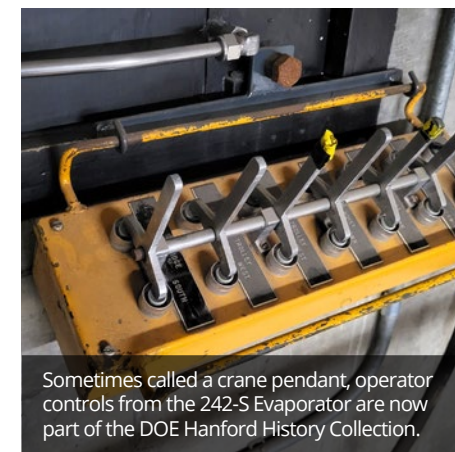
"WRPS supported a sitewide, multi-contractor effort spanning several years, to complete all the remaining historic building walkthroughs for the facilities WRPS manages. The 242-S crane pendant is one of roughly 20 or so tank farms-related artifacts identified and tagged for preservation," said Holly Bowers, WRPS Environmental Regulatory Interface manager. "We're done with those now, so at this point we'll be on the lookout for inadvertently discovering additional items that might fall under the Federal curation requirements."

Those procedures outline what happens if an employee unintentionally discovers something that might have cultural



An operator would view the crane through a window and use the control levers to maneuver it, safely moving containers of waste from behind the barrier.

or historical value. Artifacts could be anything from bones, cans, bottles, arrowheads, and unique equipment 50 years or older, or custom models and diagrams – such as those of the 242-S Evaporator – that have educational value.



Sometimes called a crane pendant, operator controls from the 242-S Evaporator are now part of the DOE Hanford History Collection.

Any time a prospective item is discovered, the area is secured and an HMIS cultural specialist evaluates the item. "Historians, archivists and curators at the Hanford History Project care for preserved items day-to-day and provide a point of access to the collection for public education and interpretation," said Mary Petrich-Guy with HMIS Curation Services. "Past borrowers have included researchers, students, museums, interpretive centers, local community partners and the National Park Service."



One Hanford contractors gathered to review emissions sampling for the stack at PUREX.

ONE HANFORD

HMIS Proposes Collaboration Opportunity

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Sometimes all it takes is a bright idea to spark a valuable collaboration! This is what happened when WRPS wanted to learn more about how to sample certain emissions; the tank operations contractor will eventually need to take samples from WTP when waste treatment begins.

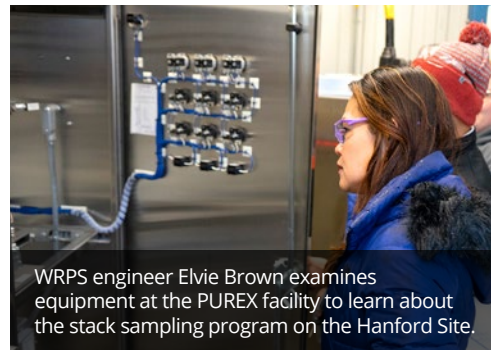
HMIS' Dale Dyekman is familiar with stack sampling since he manages emissions reports across the Hanford Site for all contractors, submitting the data to state and federal regulators. Dale thought that WRPS could benefit from a walkthrough of the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant, where CPCCo routinely collects the same kind of emissions samples that WRPS wanted to learn about. This led to a purposeful sort of field trip where WRPS engineers got to see firsthand how emissions samples work.

"We are all in this together, and you have to work as one to get things done," Dyekman said. "This effort served as a great example of inter-contractor sharing at Hanford."

Most Hanford emissions are samples for particles. Having walked through the demonstration by CPCCo at PUREX, thanks to Dale's idea, WRPS now has a clearer understanding of the requirements and processes.



Stack Sampling Manager Dale Dyekman oversees all reports submitted for compliance.



WRPS engineer Elvie Brown examines equipment at the PUREX facility to learn about the stack sampling program on the Hanford Site.



Members of the Prime Contract Administration team, (back, L-R) George Rapp, Bob Johnson, Bryce Inman, Jon Holland, Lynn Chandler, Lacey Young and Savannah McCarl, (front, L-R) Tera Teas, Karras Brackenbury and Dourvanna Luu.

MISSION: EVOLUTION

Team Focus: Prime Contract Administration

Contributor: MaryAnne Wuennecke

When you hear the word "interpreter" you probably think of someone serving as the go-between for people who speak different languages. And in a sense, that's exactly what the Prime Contract Administration team does!

If you're not a prime contracting expert, the Hanford Mission Essential Services Contract – which prescribes the work scope we conduct for DOE – might seem like a foreign language. Fortunately, we have experts to help us understand it. They work directly with staff to determine whether something is in or out of scope.

"We take compliance very seriously," says Lynn Chandler, who manages the PCA team and is also the HMIS contracting officer. "We help people figure out the nuances of their pieces of the contract and ensure work being performed is on-contract so the company is protected."

Another element of their role is managing our overtime plan. Previously, overtime requests, many of which must be sent to DOE for advance approval and can number in the hundreds of hours annually, were submitted individually. Now it has evolved into a streamlined annual plan serving as a map for the upcoming fiscal year.

PCA also oversees all official correspondence, coordinates contract

deliverables, manages contract change requests, works with the proposal/estimating group, and negotiates HMESC contract value and fee with DOE. If all that wasn't enough, the team also provides DOE assistance with requests for services for PNNL, Energy Northwest and other non-prime contractor entities.

The group offers training and educational opportunities upon request to help the entire organization better understand contracting complexities. "At our core, we're a problem-solving group," says Chandler. "That's our job – to figure things out."

MISSION: EVOLUTION

Mission Insider Launches

Contributor: Jill Harvill

“Mission Insider” is a video series highlighting the value of our work scope and the teams who make cleanup progress possible.

Each episode takes you behind the scenes – to inform you what our coworkers do, how they do it well and why it’s important – all in 1-2 minutes.

The first episode is a look at last fall’s construction progress of the **Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility**.

Episode two takes us inside the world of **Cybersecurity**.

The third episode features Operations Support. Once you see it, you’ll recognize **Operations Support’s** work.

Episode four is an awesome improvement in progress as **Radiological Site Services** is consolidating locations!

And finally, our fifth episode shares some insight into how HMIS is using **Digital Twin Technology** at Hanford.

Many members of our HMIS family are working hard to innovate, improve efficiencies, save money and time, and be a more effective Site integrator.



Mission Insider screenshot: Sam Camp, CPWTF



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Traffic Safety at Hanford Adds New Faces

Contributor: Cerise Peck

Hanford welcomed two new faces this month! A traffic safety collaboration between Hanford Patrol and the Benton County Sheriff’s Office assigned two full-time sheriff’s deputies to the Site. Joining us on the roadways are Deputy Grant Larson and Deputy Adam Flohr.

Deputy Larson began his career in corrections and joined the BCSO in 2004, where he has served on patrol for nearly a decade. Deputy Flohr has served in law enforcement for 15 years, and with BCSO since 2011.

Hanford Patrol Chief Lorin Cyr said, “The presence of these deputies ensures Site safety is taken seriously and is an indication of the mutually beneficial relationship between our teams. The deputies will patrol roads inside and outside the barricades, and we look forward to their commitment to the safety of our workforce.”

This partnership seeks to bring heightened safety to Hanford and the community. Together, the agencies will focus on reducing traffic-related violations and providing traffic safety education. They will also meet monthly and work together on safety initiatives such as distracted driving and reducing speed.

“We take pride in our relationships with partner agencies and welcomed the opportunity to work with Hanford Patrol in their ongoing efforts and commitment to traffic safety,” said Sheriff Tom Croskrey.

While the primary focus is education and accident reduction, the deputies can also issue traffic infractions. Remembering the importance of obeying traffic laws and taking extra steps to ensure a safe commute for you and everyone else on the road is still the best practice.



BCSO Deputy Grant Larson (left) and BCSO Deputy Adam Flohr will be working with Hanford Patrol to promote traffic safety at Hanford.

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HMIS Central Shift Office Opens

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

The HMIS Central Shift Office is up and running – culminating months of planning that resulted in a successful deployment in early February. The CSO will serve as the main point of contact for operational notifications and is located at MO2291 in the 200 East Area.

Before the CSO opened, an operational upset would have been limited to a notification through the Worker Alert/Response Notification System. “One of the major improvements is that in an event like a water line break, we can assist Water & Sewer Utilities by expediting notifications to affected facilities and requesting support, like portable restroom trailers and wash stations,” said Jennifer Ollero, Operations Support director.

“We can also make any additional notifications, such as assisting with Occurrence Reporting and Processing System alerts to the Emergency Operations Center and shoring up activities that would have been done through WARNS,” Ollero added.



Operations Support Specialist Sergio Galeana inside the new Central Shift Office.



The small, but mighty, team of three who make up the new HMIS Central Shift Office, from left, Karen Thompson, Tory Billings and Sergio Galeana.

Providing this single point of contact allows line organizations to focus on resolving the issue. “By providing this service, we are able to streamline the notification and communication processes,” said Ollero.

Since Ops Support managed WARNS already, it was a natural fit to realign three staff members to run the new CSO. With CSOs already in use by OHCs, HMIS didn’t have to pilot the concept, allowing our team to learn from others while also utilizing lessons from a kaizen that identified operational improvements prior to launch.

For much of our workforce, the most noticeable change with the opening of the CSO is the revised delivery time for the Daily Operations Report email, now sent at the end of the day instead of at the start. Congrats to all on a successful launch!

MISSION: EVOLUTION

C&R Helps Relocate RSS Gear

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

In what might be the heaviest task for the One Hanford Moves project, all equipment used by our Radiological Site Services team is being relocated to 851 Smartpark St. This called for a lift of the huge irradiator boxes, weighing about 5,000 pounds each. The irradiators calibrate radiation detection instruments used across the Hanford Site. Our Crane & Rigging team completed the job using close and constant coordination, finishing it safely.



Irradiator boxes are made of large quantities of heavy materials to protect the calibration technicians from radiation. To move them, the boxes were disassembled into two pieces: the shielding assembly and the remainder of the box irradiator.

Each shielding assembly weighed about 1,300 pounds alone and had to be shipped

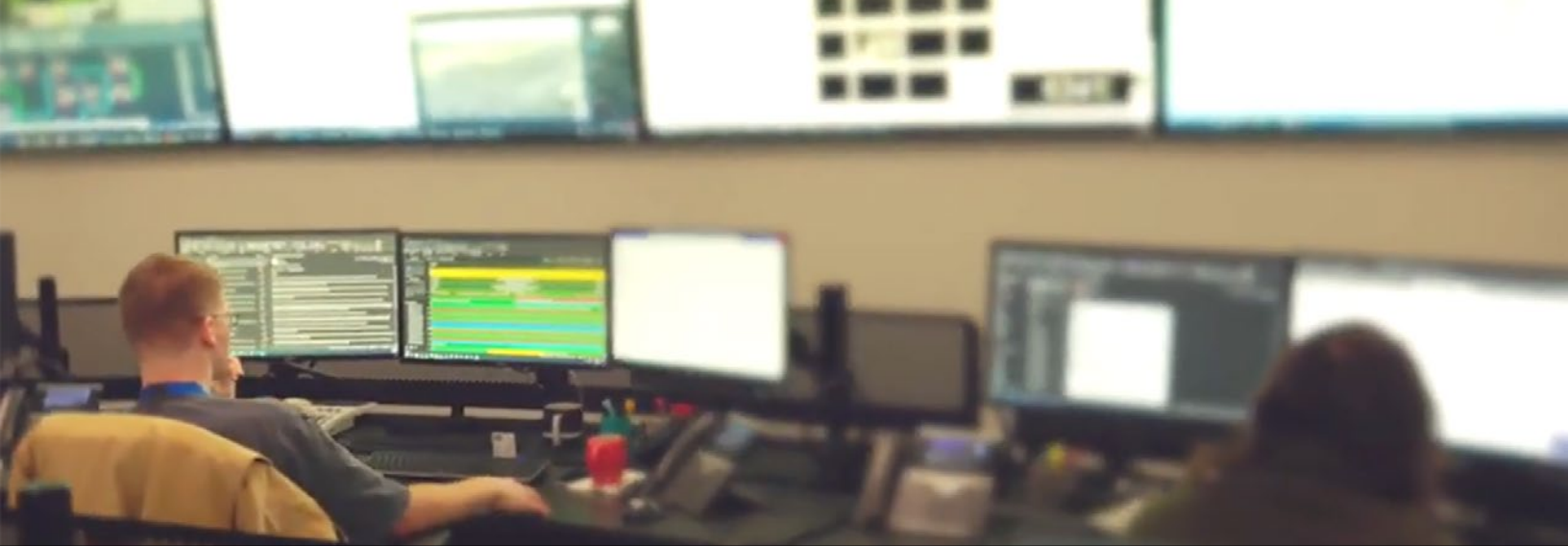


Our Crane & Rigging crew relocated the carefully packed, heavy irradiators to the new RSS home base on Smartpark St.

with a container certified by the Department of Transportation for this type of move on public roads and rented from a third party. When the shipping container first arrived, it wasn’t properly configured, requiring additional work from our team to shore up the containers for safe transportation.

Once ready, C&R had to lift the shielding assemblies in two separate shipments to enclose an irradiator, transport it to the new location about 20 miles away, then carefully unload, unpack and re-install each item.

“All of the Crane & Rigging personnel assigned to this project were truly phenomenal, especially Mike Pomrankey,” shared RSS Health Physicist Heather Healy. “Mike and the crew had a positive can-do attitude through the entire project and applied their expertise even in situations we were skeptical about. Due to the crew’s professionalism and expertise, we were able to finish this project a full day ahead of schedule despite the hurdles encountered.”



Ensuring ICS meet cybersecurity requirements is essential to Hanford Site operations and security.



Modern ICS uses a secure network to relay information to ensure systems are properly functioning.



Modernizing ICS allows for remote monitoring of systems, such as readings from the water treatment plant.

MISSION: EVOLUTION

Modernizing Hanford through Industrial Control Systems

Contributors: Cerise Peck, Todd Eckman, Julianna Joyner, Tracy Desmond and Carla Combs

As the digital age advances and evolves, the importance of industry-wide, robust cybersecurity protocols remains at the forefront. Modern industrial control systems (ICS) use network connected devices and sensors to provide control and monitoring functionality for industrial facilities. The Hanford Site ICS are key to enabling cleanup and HMIS teams are leading the charge in modernizing these 50 to 75-year-old machines and services while ensuring security isn't compromised.

"HMIS designed an innovative and holistic ICS to support the Hanford water system," said Todd Eckman, vice president of Information Management Services. "We had to consider a complex assortment of elements, including pumping, distribution, treatment and storage."

The integrated and intricate water system includes buildings, pumps, valve houses, reservoirs and piping that delivers 200-300 million gallons of water to Hanford yearly from the Columbia River. The water is a priority for workers, and facility and industrial operations.

"Advances in technology and wireless networking made the blending of operational technology with IT desirable and cost-effective," said Juli Joyner, director of Cybersecurity and chief information security officer. "When building modern ICS, we need to consider operational, security and remote monitoring needs."

The modern ICS approach is the basis for future modernization of more than 90 industrial platforms at Hanford, including electrical systems, groundwater and tank farm networks, as well as many emergency service systems. Hanford ICS environments range in size from the very large Tank Farm Local Area Network to smaller systems dedicated to a specific purpose, such as the Alarm Monitoring System.

Modernizing ICS at Hanford is a key innovation used to demonstrate operational readiness of facilities and systems that will support Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste and the 24/7 mission. Intelligent, innovative ICS bring improved reliability, increased efficiency, better responsiveness, reduced costs and simplified operations.

Watch **Modernizing Hanford through ICS** to learn more.



The HMIS Family volunteers packed more than 600 meals in less than two hours. Awesome job!



Valerie Larson (left) and Reneé Brooks seal up fresh oatmeal raisin cookies for dessert.



Ted Morales (left) and Christopher Cope dish up frozen chicken fried steak meals.

Lending a Hand at Meals on Wheels

Contributor: Shane Edinger

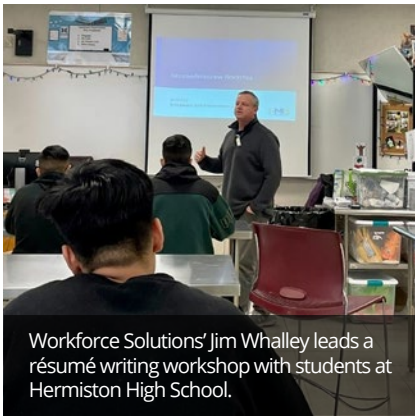
The HMIS Family is committed to lending a helping hand in our community and one of our favorite organizations to support is Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels. This month, 11 HMIS employees and their loved ones visited the Meals on Wheels central kitchen to help dish up meals for local seniors.

In less than two hours, the team assembled more than 600 frozen meals for Tri-Cities area seniors who are homebound and unable to cook for themselves. “We serve thousands of seniors in our community and volunteers are incredibly important to our organization,” said Natalie Huggins, volunteer manager with Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels. “We wouldn’t be able to serve as many people as we do without the generous support of our volunteers. Thank you!”

HMIS is also thrilled to sponsor the new extended lunch hours at the Meals on Wheels café, which gives seniors the opportunity to enjoy lunch and then another meal later in the afternoon at the café, four days a week.



Workforce Resources & Development Manager Dan Seitz shares helpful insights during an interview workshop with students at Kennewick High School.



Workforce Solutions' Jim Whalley leads a résumé writing workshop with students at Hermiston High School.

Sharing Knowledge with Hanford's Future Workforce

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS is committed to supporting the development of the future Hanford workforce and many of those efforts begin at the high school level. Recently, the Workforce Resources & Development team hit the road for a series of outreach activities at local high schools.

Workforce Resources & Development Manager Dan Seitz visited Kennewick High School to provide an interviewing workshop for students. Seitz shared information on how to prepare for a job interview, along with some successful techniques for answering interview questions.

Meanwhile, HR Specialist Jim Whalley traveled south to Oregon to participate in an interview and résumé writing workshop at Hermiston High School. Students received valuable information on how to write a strong résumé and prepare for a job interview.

Whalley and teammate Maureen Gore also participated in mock interviews at Chiawana High School in Pasco. The mock interviews are the culmination of the career unit for students in Chiawana's Financial Literacy course.



Celebrating the 2023 Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton & Franklin Counties Youth of the Year!

Celebrating the Youth of the Year

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS was excited to once again sponsor the local Youth of the Year program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton & Franklin Counties. The program recognizes outstanding teen members who demonstrate leadership, service, academic success and living a healthy lifestyle. Candidates from clubs in Kennewick, Pasco and Prosser submit essays about what participating in club programs means to them and how it has improved their lives.

HMIS employees joined the finalists on a shopping trip to provide them with outfits to wear during their presentations and interviews with judges. Our helpers included Ryan Burdo, Diane Cato, Darci Teel, Jamie Wilson and Stephanie Zaragoza. “We’re super grateful to HMIS for not only supporting us financially, but actually being here with our kids and sharing their knowledge about interviews and looking professional and confident,” said Club Advisor Patty Martin.

Operations Support Director Jennifer Ollero and Chief Engineer Grant Ryan served as judges for the final competition, while Chief Financial Officer Ryan Burdo and Vice President of Engineering



Mission Assurance team members Stephanie Zaragoza (far left) and Darci Teel (second from left) shopped with Pasco finalist Desaray Paniagua (second from right) and her club advisor Patty Martin (far right).

& Projects Diane Cato served as judges for individual clubs. The HMIS judges were very impressed by the initiative displayed by each of the finalists. “Learning about the finalists through their essays, letters of recommendation, speeches and panel interviews is always awe-inspiring for me,” Grant Ryan shared. “The obstacles they’ve had to overcome is impressive and a testament to their drive to succeed.”

Dalilah Fuentes with the Kennewick clubhouse was selected as the local Youth of the Year at a ceremony this month. She will now advance to the statewide competition next month. HMIS is proud to support this program and play a role in developing tomorrow’s leaders!



(L-R) Prosser club finalist Aaron Price, Kennewick clubhouse member and 2023 Youth of the Year Delilah Fuentes, and Pasco finalist Desaray Paniagua.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Cultivating Student Interest in STEM

Contributor: Shane Edinger

With so many jobs on the Hanford Site focused on science, technology, engineering and math, it's important for local students to cultivate an interest in STEM to help develop and maintain the future Hanford workforce. HMIS Engineering Director Drew Thomas is doing his part by frequently visiting his old stomping grounds at Kiona-Benton City Middle School to engage with students and get them interested in STEM.

"I grew up in Benton City and my wife is a teacher there, along with my sister, so I still have a lot of connections to the schools," Drew shared. "I visit classrooms several times a year for different STEM lessons and events."

This fall, Drew met with students in the 7th and 8th grade science classes to encourage them to compete in a regional engineering design contest organized by The STEM Foundation's STEM Like ME!SM program.



Drew walked the students through the basics of the engineering design process and then laid out the details of the competition, where students were asked to come up with a unique design to solve a problem in their lives.

Ki-Be students swept the top spots in the regional competition, and several others earned honorable mention from their teachers. Drew presented certificates to all the students at a school assembly last month.

"Sometimes students in smaller communities don't get the same STEM learning opportunities as students in the bigger cities," Drew added. "The work The STEM Foundation is doing to share these programs with students in schools of all sizes is really important and definitely appreciated."

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Bright Outlook for Tri-Cities Economy

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS is committed to meaningful and sustainable partnerships in our community and was pleased to sponsor the Tri-City Development Council's (TRIDEC) 24th Annual Tri-Cities Regional Economic Outlook and 60th Annual Meeting. The event featured several discussion panels on topics like the impacts of tourism on our economy, new innovations in the agriculture industry, and the local economy's potential transition from cleanup to clean energy.

Vice President of Workforce Solutions Julie Lindstrom moderated a panel discussion on creating and securing the talent pipeline for the region, which featured WSU Tri-Cities Chancellor Sandra Haynes, Columbia Basin College President Rebekah Woods, and David Chavey with the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council.

The event wrapped up with TRIDEC's Annual Meeting luncheon where CEO Karl Dye shared TRIDEC's vision for powering the next 60 years of economic development.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Winter Fete Supports Range of Services

HMIS was proud to sponsor the 21st Annual Winter Fete benefiting the Children's Developmental Center! Our sponsorship of the "Raise the Paddle" portion of the night brought in more than \$35,000 for the non-profit that provides early intervention services, therapy and education for children with special needs. The entire event raised over \$210,000 in a single evening!



United Way Campaign Makes Impact

Check out how the HMIS family dug deep when it came to supporting United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties through our recent workplace campaign! That big check reflects nearly \$60,000 to address challenges in our community. We are humbled to have such generous teammates who help provide the building blocks to education, income and health.

